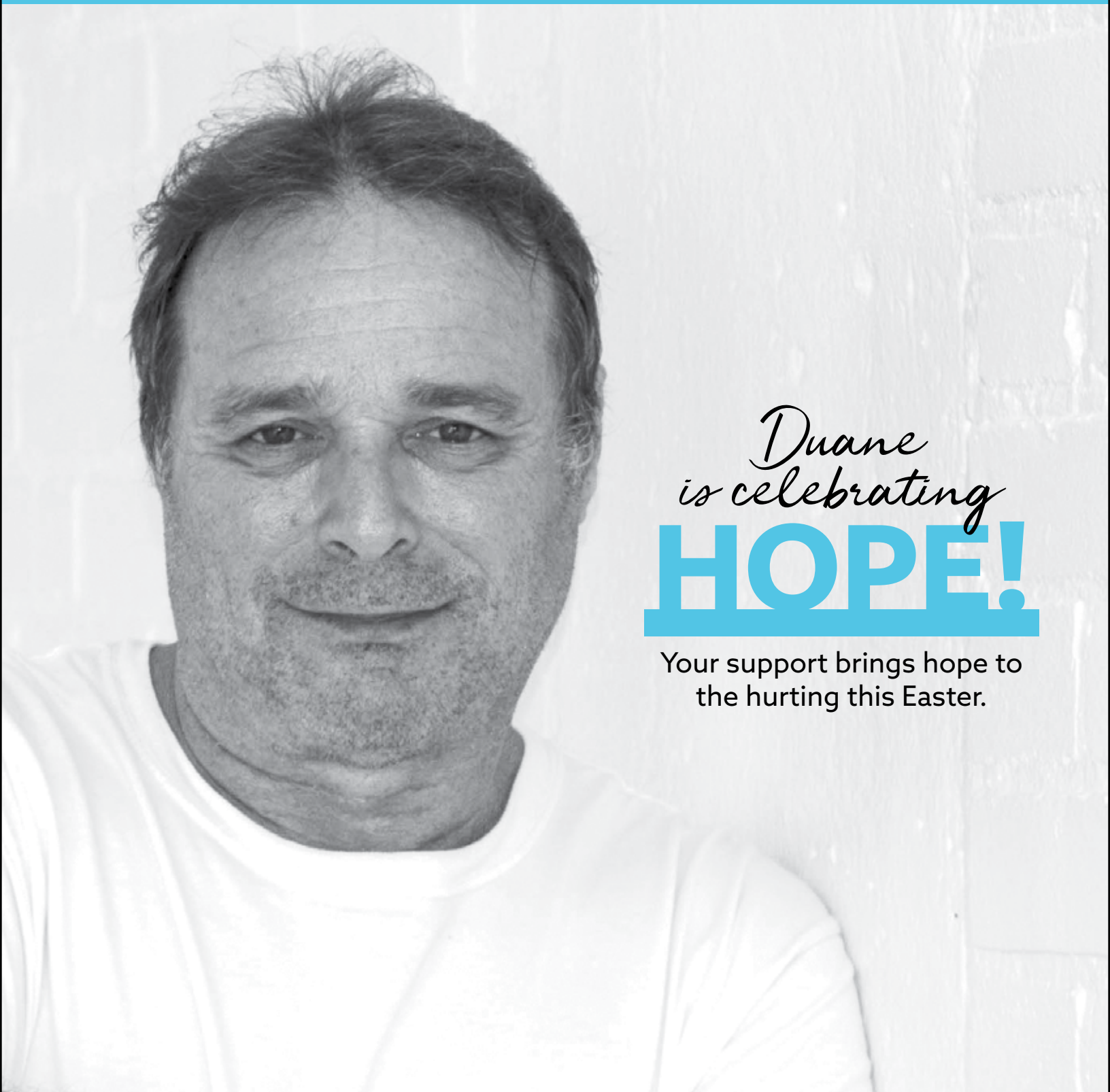


# INSIDE STORY



A NEWSLETTER OF WHEELER MISSION | EASTER 2021



*Duane  
is celebrating*  
**HOPE!**

Your support brings hope to  
the hurting this Easter.

# “I’m a **HAPPIER, STRONGER PERSON** because of my faith.”

**D**uane grew up believing that he was a mistake, inadequate, and destined for failure. “I had a bad speech problem, so kids always made fun of me,” he says. “And I was mentally abused by my parents. They always put me down, saying I wouldn’t amount to anything.”

He shut down emotionally and, when he was 13, began numbing his pain with drugs and alcohol. “I used them to escape,” he says.

For decades, Duane struggled with addiction. At first, he was able to function, excelling at work and raising a family. But, eventually, his addiction spiraled out of control, destroying his marriage, alienating his children, costing him jobs, and leaving him homeless. **“I was living under bridges and sleeping on park benches,”** he says.

Then, one day, he had a moment of clarity. He saw what his life had become. “It was in shambles. I’d lost everything. I was sitting there crying, mentally and physically broken,” he says. **“I wanted my life back.”**

It was then Duane entered our Foundations Program, where Bible studies and chapel services led him to surrender his life to the Lord. “When I got here, I was spiritually broken, but now I know God, and I know He’s forgiven me,” Duane says.

Duane’s newfound faith and one-on-one counseling have helped heal his childhood wounds and restore his relationships. “Part of the healing process is writing letters, asking for forgiveness. **I wrote to my kids and now I’ve got one back in my life,**” he says, joyfully.

Duane completed the program and went on to become an Equip Intern, encouraging other men here at Wheeler Mission. He plans to go into ministry one day, working with those who are where he once was.

**Thanks to the blessing of your support, Duane is celebrating Easter as a new creation in Christ.** “Before I came to Wheeler Mission, I was emotionally broken, but now I’m a happier, stronger person because of my faith.”



# Thank you

for making a difference during COVID-19

2020 was such a challenging year – but your support and compassion helped so many people find help here at Wheeler Mission. In fact, a record-breaking number of people turned here for help – which meant often serving over **1,000** each night!

## WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR YOU!

Thanks to you, we continue to provide care for more people than ever before: Food. Shelter. Hygiene and safety items. And special assistance for those struggling through extremely tough times. We've done so while following safety precautions to keep our guests, staff, and volunteers protected and healthy – and to minimize the impact of COVID-19.

Thank you again, and may God bless your generous heart!

*“I came that you may have life and have it abundantly.” – John 10:10, NASB*



A Message from RICK ALVIS

## THE MIRACLE OF EASTER *lives on in you*

Can you imagine what it must have been like to gaze into that empty tomb that Easter morning? To rise from the depths of despair to heart-pounding, indescribable joy, realizing Jesus conquered the grave?

That's the power of the resurrection. And that same power is still transforming hearts and lives today.

Jesus came that we may have life abundantly, and we embrace that as our calling. **We exist to help our neighbors experience life to the fullest, as God intended.**

Never in our 127 years of service have we experienced as many people turning to Wheeler for help as we have lately. One of the greatest blessings has been that even during this record-breaking demand, we've continued to meet the needs of our guests. In the midst of this pandemic crisis, we're offering help, hope, and healing to more people in our

community.

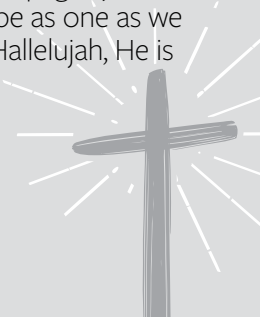
*And it's all thanks to caring friends like you!*

As we celebrate the miracle of Easter, we also celebrate the miracles God is working in Indianapolis and Bloomington today. Every chain that's broken, every heart that turns to Him, every life that's restored is a cause for rejoicing.

This Easter, I pray that you will see God move mightily in your own life, just as you have given generously so He can work miracles in the lives of your neighbors like Duane (whose incredible story is on page 3).

May our hearts be as one as we cry out together, “Hallelujah, He is risen!” this Easter.

Rick Alvis  
President/CEO



## Celebrate **NEW LIFE** this Easter

It's hard to have hope when you're hungry and experiencing homelessness. This Easter, we'll warmly welcome our neighbors in need with immediate help like:

- **A hot meal and care for \$2.03**
- An overnight stay in our shelter
- Hygiene items & Christ-centered help

**YOU can give even more people the gift of meals and care this Easter.** A nourishing meal, served with love, is often the first step to a new life in Christ!

- ✉ Give now using the enclosed reply card and envelope.
- ✦ Give online anytime at **WheelerMission.org**.

*Thank you for your support of Wheeler Mission guests.  
Have a blessed Easter!*



## More room for hope at our Bloomington Annex

Our Center for Men campus at Wheeler Mission—Bloomington has expanded to include our multi-purpose Annex facility!

Located within walking distance of our Center for Men, individuals experiencing homelessness are able to access additional restrooms, showers, a day room, shelter space (if necessary), case management, resource/referral services, and phone/Wi-Fi.

And there's more!

Each day, Wheeler Mission—Bloomington can now clean and sanitize linens at our Annex with our commercial washers and dryers, purchased through the generosity of Clear Creek Christian Church. The sanitized linens are distributed to the more than 120 guests in our care. Our Wheeler Mission—Bloomington team is deeply grateful to be able to offer these vital services to our guests.

To see our Center for Men campus firsthand, please contact Chris-Michael Morrison at  
**(812) 219-2939** or at  
[cmmorrison@wheelermission.org](mailto:cmmorrison@wheelermission.org).



## OUR EASTER SEASON NEEDS LIST



Easter is almost here! Between now and Easter Sunday, we're preparing to serve **thousands of hot meals** and provide men, women, and children with **basic necessities like safe shelter, access to medical care, and Christ-centered care.** *Our neighbors experiencing homelessness are counting on us, and we're counting on YOU!*

Drop off donations at our Men's Residential Center at **245 N. Delaware St. in Indianapolis, IN 46204**, or our Center for Men located at **215 S. Westplex Ave. in Bloomington, IN 47404.**

No time to shop? Donate now!

☎ **(317) 635-3575**  
✦ **WheelerMission.org**

### HELP WITH EASTER MEALS

Drop off any of these urgently needed food items by **Friday, April 2:**

- SPIRAL SLICED HAMS
- INSTANT MASHED POTATOES
- BUTTER
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- POWDERED MILK
- DESSERTS (homemade or store-bought)
- COFFEE
- CREAMER